



# Paddock Paper

Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association

March 2016

*The connection between people and horses is both ancient and timeless. Even as equestrian sports change and grow, the tie remains secure. ~ Eliza McGraw, Everyday Horsemanship*

## Horses during the Civil War

General membership meeting, March 30  
Old Pecos Trail Inn  
6 p.m. for dinner; meeting begins at 7 p.m.

Our speaker at the next general meeting will be Civil War buff John McKenna. John, who is a certified saddle fitter and maker by trade, has done quite a bit of study on the kinds of tack employed by cavalry units during that time period. He plans to bring some examples of items for us to examine, and talk about characteristics that were deemed important. John's experience with both English and "stock" saddle traditions gives him a good perspective on the equipment of the period.

Please join us for this entertaining evening!



March meeting speaker John McKenna



Members Joyce and Bob Davis are snow-birding in Arizona until April but sent this charming photo of their donkey Carlotta out for a walk in the desert. Enjoy the sunshine until your return, Carlotta! (Do you have a photo to share?)

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**Quiz question:** Member Eldon Reyer wraps his lead rope twice around a post or hitch rail before tying his quick release knot. Do you know why this is preferable? Answer later in the newsletter.

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*A horse dealer and his son went to look at a horse for sale. The father asked his son to get on. The son asked, "Shall I ride the horse as if I am selling it or as if I am buying it?"*

*—Source unknown*



**Minutes of the February 24, 2016  
General membership meeting  
Pecos Trail Inn Karen Denison**

Called to order at 7:15 p.m. following a dinner hour by President Rocco Fancellu.

Treasurer's report was delivered by Treasurer Helen Newton. Our account balances are approximately \$10,000 in all accounts. Our recurring monthly expenses are mostly insurance and PNM bills. We've paid out \$60 this month to renew our website hosting for the year and buy the domain NNMHA.net for our website. Helen will also be investigating soon what changes need to be made to our insurance policy to cover events planned for the upcoming season. She is also pursuing a listing of the Horsemen's grounds as an available overnighting location on HorseMotel.com.

The walk-through assessment of the NNMHA grounds by President Rocco Fancellu and V.P. Eldon Reyer resulted in identifying 16 stalls which need significant repair. Grounds manager Mark Boutelier has estimated that work will cost less than \$1000 if we can have sufficient volunteers. We've targeted April 16th as the first workday. We'll also look at converting two stalls to secure storage for tools and supplies which would be especially helpful during Rodeo de Santa Fe rentals.

Secretary Karen Denison reported that the member list is hovering around 50 paid/accounted members for 2016. This is down considerably from the emailing list used last year, but since the definitive record of "paid" memberships is missing from 2014-2015, we don't know if this is a real change. Only those members paid by March 1 will be in the directory (if they've agreed). The first newsletter this year has been posted to the website and emails are being sent via Vertical Response service. Eldon Reyer reported that we've called it the "Paddock Paper" in past.

The Board meeting on March 9th will be devoted to setting a calendar of events for the upcoming year. ANY MEMBER who would like to see events is welcome to attend or contact a Board member with your suggestions. Do remember that this is your organization and if you want it (and are willing to help), we'll try to do it. Lisa Gordon and Tamara Rymer are thinking about a training show series. Board meetings are 6pm at the NNMHA office trailer.

Karen Denison has spoken with the county 4-H coordinator, Christina Turner. She would welcome the opportunity to sit down with NNMHA regarding partnering ideas, perhaps through one or more 4-H "project days".

The final Winter Wooly schooling show will be  
March 20 at

**2016 Officers and Board**

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HIPICO Santa Fe. The previous two non-competitive “shows” have had great turnouts and welcomed riders of all abilities and disciplines. This is the type of inclusive event the club would like to support. NNMHA members Helen Newton and Terry Berg are organizers of the independent event. More information is available on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Northern-New-Mexico-Winter-Wooly-Show-Series-185062094912641/?fref=ts>

Member Kathy Olshefsky has a showing of her equine paintings at Las Chivas Coffee Shop in La Tienda (Eldorado). The opening is Sunday, Feb 28th and the show runs through March 26th.

### **Evening Program: Ropes and Knots**

Eldon Reyer, who learned his way around horses and mules as a packer for the National Park Service, shared and demonstrated some of his tips for quick-release knots, using halters and lead ropes in the backcountry (including how he secures the lead rope while riding with a Nevada tuck), and talked some about hobbling and picketing horses. In response to a question, he also explained the difference in where a horse would be (relative to the saddle horse) if it was being ponied versus being used as a packhorse. He further explained how he goes about teaching a horse that “following” position for packing.

Rocco Fanucello brought his bosal with attached mecate and spoke about the proper way to tie off if using the mecate using the reins double-looped, so the tie becomes a neck rope. He also spoke about using horses’ natural herd behavior to help in teaching them to pony with a saddle horse. He offered some suggestions about tack and technique (like choosing split reins rather than a single rope rein) for backcountry or trail riders as horses sometimes get loose and may injure themselves by getting tangled. He also showed and demonstrated a 50-foot 1/2-inch-diameter soft cotton rope with hand-built honda.

He calls it his American Express rope (“don’t leave home without it”) for whatever emergency or training issue may arise.

Program was concluded and meeting adjourned approximately 8:30 p.m.

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## **Equine Herpesvirus for Dummies**

Karen Denison

*Disclaimer: I am not a veterinarian. However, I’m a former biologist with some experience reading clinical (human) research studies. So out of concern for the current EHV-1 outbreak in southern New Mexico, I did some reading of the primary scientific research to learn what I could about the risks to my traveling, trail riding critter and all her barn-mates. Here’s the translated summary of what I found most relevant.*

Do you know the story of the blind men and the elephant? Each man described the elephant as a quite different beast depending on which body part they encountered, whether leg, or tail, or trunk. Upon trying to do some reading, equine herpesvirus (EHV) seems rather like the elephant.

EHV has been around long enough that it is found all over the world. And scientists have studied enough to recognize at least five different closely-related types labeled EHV-1 through -5. Most prevalent are types EHV-1 and EHV-4.

Both EHV-1 and EHV-4 can cause fever, respiratory illness and depending on type may cause late-trimester abortions or neurologic symptoms requiring euthanasia. Any horse with fever and snotty in both nostrils is suspect. All forms are highly contagious and can travel by aerosol or indirect contact (a shared bucket, brush, on hands or clothing). Evidence suggests that the live virus may persist in the environment for several days to **weeks**. Treatment is through anti-virals and supportive therapy. Most horses



recover without difficulty although the young and old suffer the most. And absolute quarantine for at least 21 days after all symptoms subside is the recommended guideline. Like certain other illnesses, EHV is a legally reportable disease; your vet will have to test suspect horses and report positives to the state livestock board.

All breeds of equines are susceptible however the incidence of active disease, particularly of EHV-1, is much higher in certain scenarios. Groups of younger performance horses (less than two years) and larger breeding farms are much more likely venues for active outbreaks of disease. Young immune systems and high stress are factors. However, once an outbreak occurs and active virus is being shed by individual horses, then all horses are at greater risk from infection.

But here's where the blind men start to contend with each other about the elephant. Among older performance horses like racehorses, it appears that up to 80% harbor the virus localized somewhere within their bodies (like the basal ganglia) just as people who have had chicken pox harbor a herpesvirus which can reappear as shingles. And like the chicken pox/shingles scenario, anything which compromises the equine immune system can allow the damnable thing to express again. Although finding the virus is reasonably straightforward in nasal swabs during active infections, finding evidence of the latent virus is quite difficult--even post-mortem--because of it's highly localized nature. Positive carriers may be as low as 15% (in some studies) in certain populations.

We routinely vaccinate against EHV-1 and EHV-4; "rhino" vaccine (often in combination with influenza vaccine) is standard in our area. But like so many human viruses, these things seem to mutate with some frequency and the vaccine may not provide as much protection as we'd like. At best, vaccination may help reduce the horse-to-horse transmission but will not completely

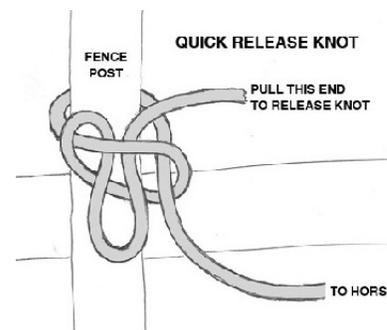
prevent it--particularly in the case of an active outbreak and lots of live virus floating about. And it seems to do nothing for improving the outcome if a previously vaccinated horse becomes infected.

So what is a regular horse owner to do? Recommendations for horse management vary from the very protective to the wait-and-see.

If you have a bunch of prized, young, high-performance stock traveling to shows or races your strategy is likely to be different than your average backyard horse owner. The good news seems to be that your typical backyard rider with adult horses is less likely to encounter too many problems with this disease. But in any case, keep up on vaccinations, be aware before traveling of any quarantines or health warnings (and consider the possibility of carrying a problem back with you from a big show even if your horse stays home), minimize contact with visiting horses (no nose-to-nose touching or sharing equipment), and immediately isolate any horse which shows signs of illness. Probably good advice regardless of the malady.

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**Quiz Answer :** Quick-release knots are meant to pull loose with one swift pull. However a horse which pulls back on the rope while tied may over-tighten the knot and make it very difficult to release, especially in an emergency. By taking two wraps around a tie rack first, the likely pressure exerted by the horse is expended on "tightening" the loops rather than the knot itself.



(Knot shown without the two wraps.)





NNMHA member Terry Berg speaks with some of the participants at the Valentine's Day Winter Wooly training show at HIPICO Santa Fe. One final show will be held March 20.

## Trails? What Trails?

Report on the February 26, 2016 GUTS Meeting  
(Grand Unified Trail System)  
Sue Murphy

Tim Rogers from the Santa Fe Conservation Trust led the meeting. About 25 people attended; hikers, bikers, horsemen (4), and it seemed perhaps half of those in attendance were there in official capacities representing a Trust or other organization, Santa Fe City/County, Santa Fe National Forest, etc. GUTS meetings have been held for approximately one year.

Tim Fowler from Santa Fe Fat Tire Society, gave a brief overview of his vision for this project to connect all existing trails in and around Santa Fe using a wheel and spoke approach to the trail areas. (More information on GUTS is at <http://www.sfct.org/trails/grand-unified-trail-system-guts>.)

The purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on progress, raise awareness, and seek volunteers for the committees focused on one of the target areas for trail linking (see link to map

<http://www.sfct.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/GUTS-Focus-Areas3.jpg>). Please report to your equine organizations that this is a long range multi-year project, and many more volunteers are needed in planning, reaching out, communications, and trail building.

If you can sign up for one of the Areas, or for one of these Committees: Communication and Outreach headed by Rachel Wexler, Trail Criteria, Guidelines and Guiding Principles headed by Tim Fowler, Mapping Gap Analysis and Route Planning headed by Tim Rogers, and Promotion and Events headed by Rachel Wexler, please email Tim Rogers at [tim@sfct.org](mailto:tim@sfct.org). Currently, I think only 2 horsemen are on committees: Piar Marks and Julia Jarvis. So clearly, more equestrian participation is needed if we expect to have access to the resulting trails.

Partners in GUTS include public and private entities: Santa Fe City and County, Friends of Santa Fe National Forest, Rancho Viejo subdivision, Federal and State Forest, Santa Fe Fat Tire Society, National Parks Service's "River Trails and Conservation Assistance" Program, and Santa Fe County Horse Coalition. More partners



are sought from communities and government organizations including BLM which was not present at the meeting.

Each of the 10 areas being researched have a "Champion" leading that group under which volunteers can sign up for the area that has the most appeal to them. Each Champion gave a brief overview of their progress. There was much discussion about the efforts to communicate and

convince private land owners to allow trail passage and the benefits to those areas. The Trails Alliance of Santa Fe, which is affiliated with the Santa Fe Conservation Trust, has some related talking points on their website (<http://trailsallianceofsantafe.org/>). Las Campanas was mentioned as one important community to approach. Rancho Viejo has already signed the partnership agreement.

Each Area has planning team members as well as resources listed to consult and include relevant to a given area, such as County planning staff, National Park Service / National Historic Trails office and affiliates (for Camino Real, Santa Fe Trail, and Old Spanish Trail), and Fred Friedman and other railroad buffs on NMCRR, Chili Line,

and other abandoned rail lines.

Jarratt Applewhite brought up the former NM Central Railway right-of-way through the Thornton Ranch as a possible mechanism to connect the Galisteo Basin and Petroglyph Hill trail systems with Ranch Viejo and the rest of the GUTS system. Several rail lines have been identified as possible trail sections. Tim Rogers said that the NM Central Line is a current focus, and that Julia Jarvis from the Santa Fe County Horse Coalition has been lobbying for long connecting trails through and around Galisteo Basin. Railroad lines are ideal because they 1.) Specifically follow the historic rail line, 2.) Due to their rail foundation, will require less trail building and maintenance, and 3.) Prevents the need to create additional trails across the landscape.

No date was given for the next meeting, but emails were collected so meeting announcements will follow and be distributed, or you can check back at <http://www.sfct.org>. Ideally, more horsemen will participate in this expansive and important trail connecting plan. If you can contribute your time, please email Tim Rogers at [tim@sfct.org](mailto:tim@sfct.org)

## Ridge Riders

The Association's organized group trail rides are open to members only and operate by guidelines designed to keep everyone safe while having a good time. Guidelines are found on the Association website at <http://www.nmha.net/ridge-riders.html>

The first NNMHA Ridge Riders ride of 2016 is scheduled (conditions permitting) for Saturday, April 23rd at Rowe Mesa. The sign-up sheet and a handout with all the details will be available at the meeting on March 30th. The ride will be limited to 12 members, so be sure to be at the meeting to get on the list. If you have any questions, please call Julie Belt at 850-621-6811. Let's ride!



## Rails to Trails Show Series

Planning is underway for three shows "Rails to Trails". The shows are suitable for both those who are new to showing and those who are more experienced and want to practice their skills.

A partial class list includes Ranch Riding, Western Ranch Pleasure, Trail and Ranch Reining.

Tentative dates are June 18, July 16, and September 24. Save the dates!



## Spring Cleaning Workday

**April 16, 10 a.m.**

Dust off your work boots, bring your gloves and help spruce up the Grounds in preparation for our summer activities. We need to rake some weeds, clean a few stalls, and repair some of the stall woodwork. Bring a couple of yard tools if you can (rake, pitchfork, shovel), and if you are inclined then a well-charged cordless drill/driver for doing some wood repairs—we'll have the materials. Many hands make lighter work; even an hour of your time will count!

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## Santa Fe National Forest Trail Workday

Saturday, April 2 (9:00-2:00)—class/workday on Dead Dog Trail

Join volunteers from many other organizations in renovating a trail built specifically at the suggestion of equestrians. If you're unfamiliar, this connector trail goes from Old Buckman Road (at Dead Dog Well) to the top of the Caja del Rio escarpment to the west. Hikers and mountain bikers volunteer regularly—let's make that true for equestrians, too.

For more information, contact the district volunteer coordinator Jennifer Sublett, 505-753-7331, [jasublett@fs.fed.us](mailto:jasublett@fs.fed.us)

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### Upcoming NNMHA calendar:

Events described elsewhere in the newsletter

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|----------|---------------------------------|
| March 30 | General Meeting                 |
| April 6  | Board meeting (members welcome) |
| April 16 | Grounds Workday                 |
| April 23 | Ridge Riders: Rowe Mesa         |
| April 27 | General meeting                 |

